

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Henson on 12/9/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace claims 1, 13-15, and 17-18 with the following:

1. A method of playing an interactive bingo game, comprising:

- initiating a game session on a gaming device that comprises,
 - a plurality of game events corresponding to the game session,
 - a chargeable credit game condition, in which a first player selection is received for charging at least one credit for each game event;
- providing on a player interface, a player a bingo card having a plurality of integers configured in a grid pattern;
- performing the game events on the gaming device so that each game event comprises having the interactive game draw at least one bingo number from a set of bingo numbers;

Art Unit: 3714

charging a player a quantity of credits obtained from an input component of the gaming device for each of the game events according to the chargeable credit game condition;

awarding by the gaming device to said player one or more prizes according to a dynamic payable that depends on a plurality of dynamic variables that are modified after each game event that charges according to the chargeable credit game condition, the dynamic payable comprising,

a plurality of payouts wherein each payout is associated with a corresponding game event,

a plurality of triggering events wherein each triggering event is associated with one of a plurality of bingo patterns,

a threshold event that is engaged after one or more triggering events, said threshold event configured to determine a plurality of prize credits awarded for each subsequent bingo pattern;

repeatedly displaying each payout for the corresponding game event;

repeatedly modifying the payouts during the game session for each game event so that each payout is modified according to a graduated weighting function that weighs probabilities more favorably as more game events are played during the game session; and

enabling the dynamic payable to be modified after each game event according to an equation:

$$\text{PAY}(I) = \text{ROI} * \text{ABET} * \text{WGT}(I) * \text{AL}(\text{IHIT})/\text{PR}(I)$$

Art Unit: 3714

where,

PAY(I) is a payout for a bingo pattern;

ROI is an overall payback percentage;

ABET is an average bet;

WGT(I) is a graduated weighting function that weighs probabilities more favorably for game events that occur at the end of the said game session;

AL(IHIT) is a pay allocation weighting function that determines the percentage of the total prize awarded for the bingo pattern; and

PR(I) includes a probability for the next game event, wherein the next game event is the bingo number picked from the set of bingo numbers.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said plurality of bingo patterns includes at least one row of drawn bingo numbers on said bingo card, said row being horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein said plurality of bingo patterns includes a four-corner bingo pattern.

15. The system of claim 12 wherein said plurality of bingo patterns includes a blackout bingo pattern.

Art Unit: 3714

17. The system of claim 12 wherein said plurality of dynamic variables comprises said player credits wagered for each chargeable action.

18. The system of claim 12 wherein said plurality of dynamic variables comprises an allocation variable that determines said plurality of prize credits to award for each of said bingo patterns.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to teach, in combination with the other limitations of a plurality of payouts wherein each payout is associated with a corresponding game event, a plurality of triggering events wherein each triggering event is associated with a plurality of bingo patterns, a threshold event that is engaged after one or more triggering events said threshold event configured to determine a plurality of prize credits award for each subsequent bingo pattern, and enabling the dynamic payable to be modified after each game event according to an equation: $PAY(I) = ROI * ABET * WGT(I) * AL(IHIT)/PR(I)$.

More specifically, the closest prior art, Luciano'214 (US 6,368,214) discloses a bingo game in which prizes are award according to a dynamic pay-table. Odom (US 6,581,935) discloses that a player can obtain a plurality of bingo patterns. A plurality of prize credits is award for each subsequent bingo pattern. Thus the combination of Luciano'214 and Odom teaches the claim limitations of a plurality of payouts wherein

Art Unit: 3714

each payout is associated with a corresponding game event, a plurality of triggering events wherein each triggering event is associated with a plurality of bingo patterns, a threshold event that is engaged after one or more triggering events said threshold event configured to determine a plurality of prize credits award for each subsequent bingo pattern. However, Luciano'214 in view of Odom fails to teach a dynamic payable to be modified after each game event according to an equation: $PAY(I) = ROI * ABET * WGT(I) * AL(IHIT)/PR(I)$.

In addition during an interview (dated 12/9/09) it was discussed that Luciano'691 (US 7,628,691) in view of Odom (US 6,581,935) discloses the claimed invention. More specifically, Luciano'691 (US 7,628,691) discloses the claim limitation of playing a game session with the dynamic payable in which a dynamic payable to be modified after each game event according to an equation: $PAY(I) = ROI * ABET * WGT(I) * AL(IHIT)/PR(I)$.

However, Luciano'691 fails to teach the specifics of playing a bingo game.

Luciano'691 fails to teach the step of providing a bingo card, draw at least one bingo number from a set of bingo numbers, and a plurality of bingo patterns with associated prize credits. Odom (US 6,581,935) discloses the claim limitation of bingo card, bingo numbers, and plurality of bingo patterns with associated prize credits (Figs. 1 and 2).

However, during the interview, it was discussed that the reference, Luciano'691 (US 7,628,691), was commonly owned at the time the invention. Applicant has

Art Unit: 3714

provided a statement on the record indicating that Patent US 7,628,691 is commonly owned by Sierra Design Group at the time the invention of Application 10/825,605. Therefore, Luciano'691 is disqualified as prior art for purpose of 103(a) due to the applicability of 103(c).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASSON H. YOO whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY

/Peter DungBa Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714